

CALIFORNIA

VIETNAM

VETERANS

MEMORIAL

December 10, 1988

WITNESS TO A DREAM



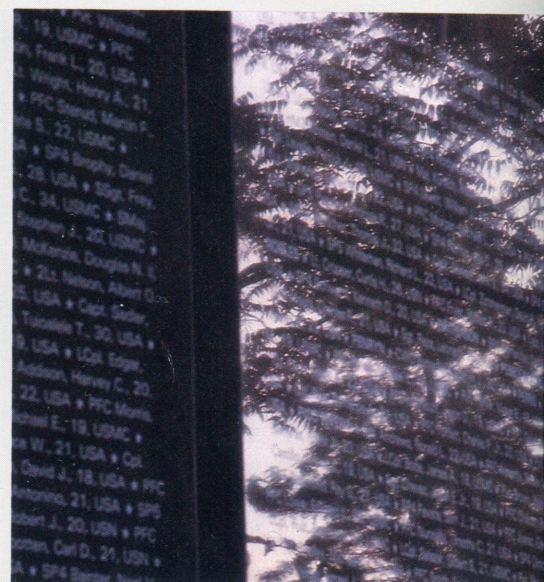
Ten years ago, the California Vietnam Veterans Memorial was just a dream. A dream that many held in their hearts, but few shared openly with others. Vietnam was a difficult and unpopular war, and veterans were not acknowledged upon their return. There was no national mourning for those who died and no thanks for those who returned. Just a world of hurt and isolation.

Six years ago, Vietnam veterans constructed a national monument in Washington D.C. It was a gesture that brought the American people and the Vietnam veterans closer at last. "The Wall" broke down the barriers that divided us and set the healing process in motion.

Five years ago, a group of California Vietnam veterans set out to make their dream come true. It wasn't a dream of material gain, but a simple dream of human dignity. A dream that every California serviceman and servicewoman who died for their country would be honored and remembered for their sacrifice. And that every Vietnam veteran that came home could be respected and acknowledged for their brave service.

Nearly 6,000 Californians were killed in Vietnam, deaths that shattered the lives of thousands more who stood by, waiting at home. Today is for all of you. For the kid who used to be your paper boy and just wanted to make it out alive, and didn't. For the wounded and captured who carry their emotional and physical scars with them wherever they go. And for those who continue to wait, it is with honor and remembrance that we dedicate this Memorial to you.

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SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

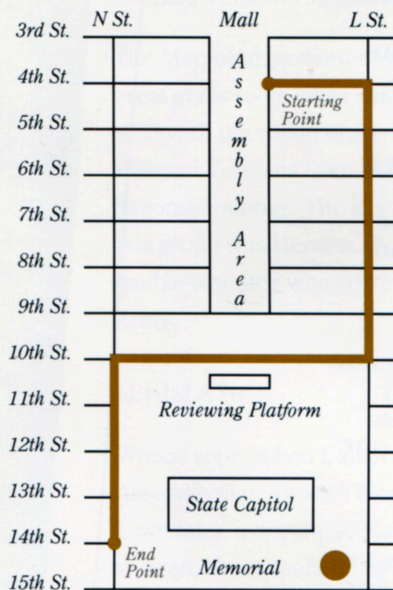
FRIDAY, DECEMBER 9

4 PM-MIDNIGHT: "Buddy Search" registrations and open houses near the Hyatt Regency Sacramento, 12th and L Streets (*Base Camp*)

4 PM-MIDNIGHT: "Buddy Search" registrations, reunions, entertainment and vendor sales, Old Sacramento, Front Street (*Fire Support Base*)

4:30 PM-9:45 PM: Reading of the Memorial names, Westminster Chapel, 13th and N Streets

7:30 PM: Showing of "Dear America: Letters Home from Vietnam", Crest Theatre, 1013 K Street, on the K Street Mall



SATURDAY, DECEMBER 10

8 AM-11 AM: "Buddy Search" registrations continue at the Hyatt Regency Sacramento, 12th and L Streets, and Old Sacramento, Front Street

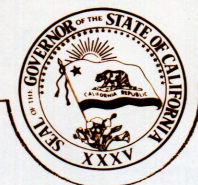
11:15 AM: March from Capitol Mall to the Memorial. The march begins at Capitol Mall and 4th Street, moves east on L Street, crosses in front of the State Capitol on 10th Street, and ends at 14th and N Streets.

1 PM: Memorial Dedication Ceremony, Capitol Park

BRIGADIER GENERAL GEORGE B. PRICE, *Keynote Speaker*

General Price was commissioned a 2nd Lieutenant from the Reserve Officers Training Corps program at South Carolina State College in 1951. He has served in command and staff positions in a number of Infantry units and was wounded in Korea during the battle for Old Baldy. In 1963 he was assigned as an advisor to the Vietnamese 1st Infantry Division and he completed his Army career as Chief of Staff, First United States Army. General Price has been awarded the Legion of Merit, the Bronze Star and the Purple Heart, as well as several other decorations.





OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
State of California

December 10, 1988

It is with great pride that I welcome you to Sacramento today for the dedication of the California Vietnam Veterans Memorial.

The 5,822 names engraved on these granite walls list those Californians who made the ultimate sacrifice -- the gift of life -- for their country. These names speak louder than any words that could be spoken here today.

We must also recognize that more than 300,000 Californians returned home from Vietnam to pursue careers and raise families. Their continuing sense of pride and dedication has truly enriched each and every community in our great state.

On this very special occasion, we are united in honoring and remembering the sacrifices that these brave men and women made for us and future generations, and their unparalleled contributions to the principles of freedom, justice and liberty.

Please accept my very best wishes for a most memorable and rewarding dedication.

Most cordially,

George Deukmejian

George Deukmejian

INDIVIDUAL FORCES ARMED WITH A VISION

HISTORY OF THE MEMORIAL

As it should be, the story of the Memorial belongs to many people. People who left apathy behind and set out to prove that individual efforts can make a difference. In this case, they made the California Vietnam Veterans Memorial.

The Memorial movement was a great grass roots effort, started in 1983 with the vision of a group of Vietnam Veterans from Marin and Sonoma counties. The key person in this group was Herman Woods, a double-amputee who served in the Army.

LEGISLATION

Woods approached California Assemblyman Richard Floyd (D-Lawndale), a decorated Korean War veteran, about sponsoring legislation that would provide for the construction of a memorial to honor California's Vietnam Veterans. To confirm community support for the legislation, Assemblyman Floyd held a rally on the east steps of the California State Capitol.

Eight hundred people showed their support. Confident that the Memorial was the will of the people, Assemblyman Floyd introduced Assembly Bill 650. It was signed into law by Governor George Deukmejian in September, 1983.

The legislation specified the following:

A memorial is to be erected on the Capitol grounds in Sacramento.

There is to be a nine-member Commission with seven voting members; six of the members must be Vietnam Veterans.

All funds are to be raised by private contributions.

The Department of Veterans Affairs will provide staff support and facilities for Commission activities.

The memorial design shall be as politically neutral as possible.

THE NINE-MEMBER COMMISSION

The California Vietnam Veterans Commission was appointed soon after legislation was signed. Five members were appointed by Governor George Deukmejian; one by Assembly Speaker Willie Brown; and one by Senate President Pro Tem David Roberti.

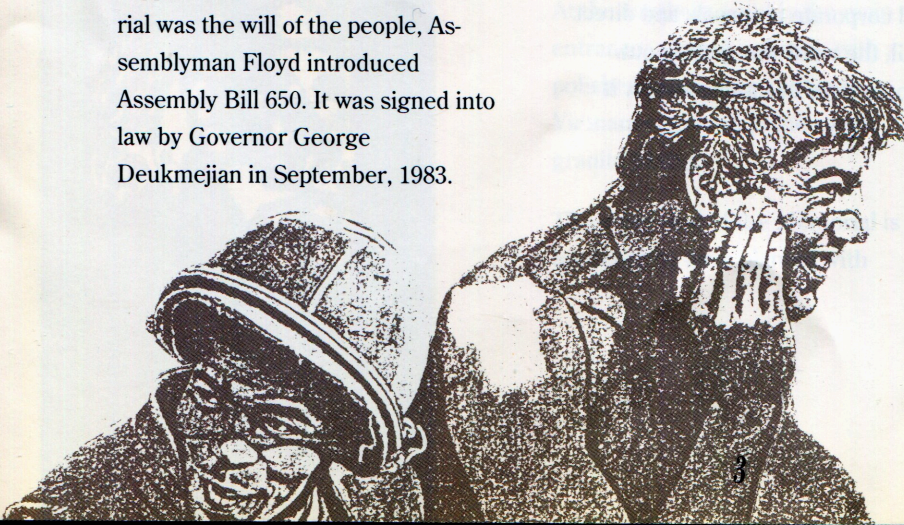
THE DESIGN COMPETITION

The design competition began in October 1984 and ended April 1, 1985. The competition was open to any artist or designer who resided in the state of California. The Commission reviewed 121 design entries.

Designs were evaluated on artistic excellence, effectiveness as a sculpture or monument and ability to be produced. The entries were judged by the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Commission. The winning design by Michael Larson and Thomas Chytrowski was unveiled in a ceremony attended by the Governor at the proposed site on May 20, 1985.

GRASS ROOTS FUNDRAISING EFFORTS

With the design selected, the Commission now had the task of raising an estimated \$2.2 million to construct the Memorial.



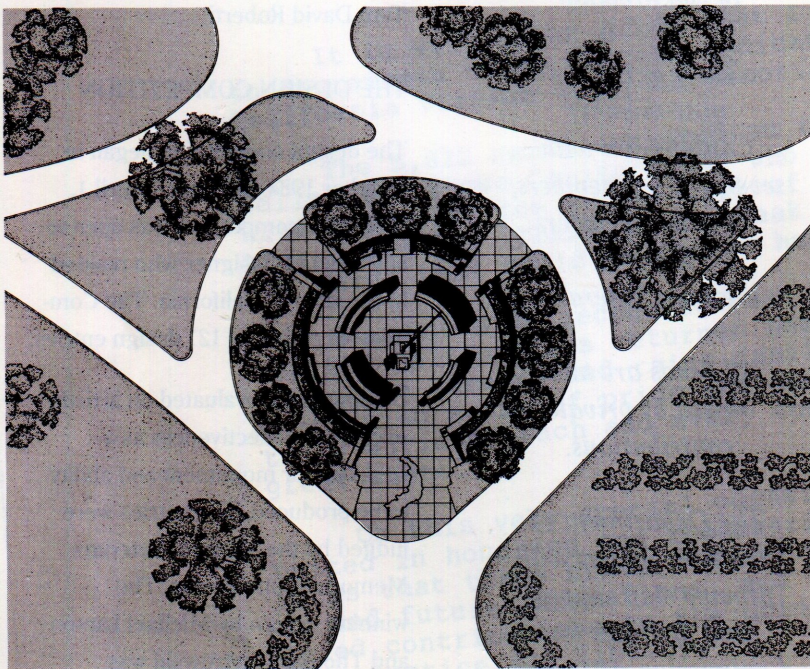
B.T. Collins, a Commission member and double-amputee, capitalized on his talent for public speaking and became the Chairman of the fund-raising committee.

In November 1985, the Commission hired Jerri Ewen, the first and only full-time staff person the Commis-

sion was ever to have. Organization of volunteers and a community outreach program were started. Through letterwriting, foundation and corporate proposals and direct mail, the word was getting out. People were becoming aware. It took time, but soon as many calls and letters were coming in as were going out. Soon small groups of Vietnam veterans and concerned parents and friends were starting their own grass root efforts in communities all over California. From Chico to Stockton, Fresno to San Diego, citizens were mobilizing forces big and small for a common cause – the California Vietnam Veterans Memorial.

Over \$500,000 in donations of time, labor and raw materials were given for the actual construction of the Memorial. Many of the contractors and their laborers were Vietnam veterans. It is impossible to mention every individual and organization that contributed to this fundraising effort. It is important to note that the majority of the funds came not from celebrities or millionaires, but from the community, mothers, fathers, grandmothers, sweethearts, and friends who wanted their loved ones to be honored and remembered.

Today you see before you a Memorial, made possible through the generous efforts of a multitude of individual forces armed with a collective vision.



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ESTABLISHING A "SENSE OF PLACE"

*Take what they
have left and
what they have
taught you
with their
dying and
keep it with
your own.
And in that
time when men
decide and feel
safe to call the
war insane,
take one
moment to
embrace those
gentle heroes
you left
behind.*



THE MEMORIAL

The decision to build a lasting Memorial to the California Vietnam veterans has been beautifully conceived in the thoughtful design of Michael Larson and Thomas Chytrowski of San Francisco.

The Memorial serves as a literal tribute to those 5,822 servicemen and servicewomen killed and missing in action. By engraving their names and hometowns in granite, the Memorial establishes a "sense of place" as to who they were, and where they came from. A map of South Vietnam provides a sense of where they fought. Bronze reliefs depict typical scenes and experiences of Vietnam.

A REFLECTION OF LIFE

The 3,750-square-foot Memorial is designed in the shape of broken concentric circles to serve as a reflection of life.

The innermost circle, 22 feet in diameter, is shaped like a drum with entrances at the four points of the compass.

At the southern point is the main entrance, a broad walkway with a polished granite map of South Vietnam engraved in the rough granite paving.

The outer ring of the Memorial is bordered by lawn planted with

weeping cherry trees. Moving inward is a low, precast concrete planter box, bedded with white roses. This wall breaks to form three entrances. Flanking each entrance are pylons capped with 24-hour lamps that symbolize eternal flames. To the right of the main entrance are the names of the appointed Commissioners; to the left, the Great Seal of the State of California. Both are of cast bronze.

CENTRAL BRONZE SCULPTURE

Within the inner circle sits a bronze figure of the archetypical 19-year-old combat soldier. This figure is the central theme of the Memorial. Seated on his helmet, the soldier cradles his M-16 and looks up from the letter he is reading to confront the visitor.

Next to him is a dedication plaque inscribed with an excerpt of a poem by U.S. Army Major Michael O'Donnell, who was killed in action. It reads:

*"...take one moment to
embrace those gentle heroes
you left behind."*

The flagpole features a truss framework suggestive of a World War II Bailey Bridge, an acknowledgement of the tradition of the American combat veteran.

INNER WALLS

Surrounding the seated figure are the interior surfaces of the four inner walls. Each has a niche in which a thematic bronze bas-relief is mounted. Each side of the niche holds three 21-inch by 21-inch bronze bas-relief panels.

North Wall Niche *Men In Combat*

The central niche depicts soldiers engaged in combat. The surrounding panels represent other views of combat, a fragment of the Constitution and the Bill of Rights.

East Wall Niche *Two Buddies*

The comradery and friendship of soldiers at war is expressed in the central bas-relief. The surrounding panels illustrate everyday experiences in the field.

South Wall Niche *Prisoner of War*

This is the only memorial in the United States to honor the courage, endurance and suffering of our Prisoners of War. The bronze bas-relief represents a POW sitting alone in his cell. Surrounding him are the machines of war; a B-52 and a patrol boat.

West Wall Niche *Nurses and Corpsmen*

The central niche depicts nurses tending wounded American soldiers. The surrounding panels represent corpsmen tending the wounded, and

memorabilia from a soldier's personal effects: dogtags, a letter, a pressed rose, an American flag, and a remembered headline from Stars and Stripes. This is the only state memorial known to honor the contribution of the 15,000 women who served in Vietnam.

Each panel image was taken from a well-known photograph selected by both the Memorial Commission and the designers. Photographs were used as the basis for the bas-reliefs because they expressed a broad range of experience and added a degree of authenticity which might otherwise be missing from a single artist's perspective.

LOCATING NAMES

The outer surface of the inner walls is faced with 22 panels of granite engraved with almost 6,000 names of those killed and missing in action. An example of a name will read:

"Sgt. Jones, Joe L., 19, USMC."

To locate a name, first find the person's hometown. Individuals are then listed in alphabetical order after their hometowns. Age was included as a reminder of their youth and the fact that in 1988 they could have 19-year-old children of their own.

At the rear of the Memorial is a 5-foot "treasury", a time capsule, containing a list of every individual and organization that contributed to the building of the Memorial. A bronze sculpture of a helmet, a pair of boots and a cartridge belt sits atop the treasury.



MESSAGE FROM CHAIRPERSON LINDA McCLENAHAN

Welcome. Today we celebrate the realization of what seemed at times to be the impossible dream. Today we dedicate the California Vietnam Veterans Memorial. Today we come together to honor those who served, thank those who waited, comfort those who mourn, and remember those we've lost.

This nearly five-year, two-million-dollar project has been in motion since Herman Woods, a double-amputee Army tunnel rat, convinced Assemblyman Floyd that a memorial to acknowledge the service and sacrifice of Californians was in order. The first meeting of the commission was held in April 1984, and the Chytrowski/Larson winning design, selected from a state-wide contest, was announced in April 1985.

I have witnessed a renewed spirit of cooperation among veterans and have again seen the strength of character and the collective focus that we all learned in Vietnam. I have seen the veteran and non-veteran community bridge gaps by working together toward a common goal. As a result, what started as a vague, undefined idea is today concrete, bronze and granite, and it is standing in Capitol Park.

The tireless efforts of Jerri Ewen and a multitude of special volunteers have brought us here today. Without them, and the generous donors, and the believers, our vision would have been a daydream, our enthusiasm, foolhardiness.

The California Vietnam Veterans Memorial Commission gratefully acknowledges each and every supporter. It is because of you we are here today in celebration and remembrance. Thank you all.

MESSAGE FROM ASSEMBLYMAN RICHARD FLOYD

Author of AB 650, 53rd District

We are finally home. The four-year march to honor California Vietnam Veterans with a Memorial is complete. We are ready to fill this dedication day with pride for all who served, sorrow for those who fell and hope for those who still carry the war with them.

We have built more than just a memorial. Veterans and their loved ones will come here to heal. Dogtags and service ribbons will be left. Children will stand and seek understanding. And each of us will look into the eyes of the teenage warrior seated on his helmet and know, without explanation, the precious contents of a letter from home.

Whenever I visit the Memorial, I will be locking arms with all of you who have so generously donated time, money and skills to build this long overdue tribute to California Vietnam Veterans.

THE CALIFORNIA VIETNAM VETERANS MEMORIAL COMMISSION



LINDA J. McCLENAHAN, *Chairperson*

Linda is currently a high school teacher at Immaculate Conception Academy in San Francisco. Prior to this, she spent 15 years as a telecommunications analyst for Bechtel Power Corporation, and worked with the Bank of California. Linda served in Vietnam from 1969 to 1970, with the 1st Signal Brigade of the U.S. Army. For her work in handling classified material, she was awarded the U.S. Army Commendation Medal.



LEO K. THORSNESS, *Vice Chairperson*

Leo is currently an Independent Assets Manager. In the past he served as President, Executive Aviation Services, Long Beach, and Director of Civic Affairs, Litton Industries, Beverly Hills. In Vietnam, he served as a combat fighter pilot (1966-67). He was shot down, captured, and held as a prisoner of war for six years. Following his release (1973), he received the Congressional Medal of Honor, the nation's highest award, for a mission carried out prior to his capture. His other decorations include two Silver Stars, the Legion of Merit, six Distinguished Flying Crosses, two Bronze Stars, and two Purple Hearts. He retired as a Colonel.



GREGORY GREEN, *Treasurer*

Greg is a manager with the Electronic System Group, TRW, Space and Defense Sector in Redondo Beach. He has been with the company since 1976. Gregory served two tours in Vietnam (1968, 1970) as a Petty Officer in the U.S. Navy. He saw duty on a destroyer and on a patrol boat as a member of a reconnaissance/ambush team. In addition to U.S. combat and service medals, he was awarded the Vietnamese Cross of Gallantry for action in combat.



ABEL COTA, *Secretary*

Abel is currently with the Bronco Two Trucking Company. From 1976 to 1986 he was the Executive Director of the American G.I. Forum in San Jose. AGIF is a veteran's service outreach program. Prior to this, he was coordinator of Veterans Affairs at Foothill College in Los Altos. He served in Vietnam from 1966-68, as a squad leader in the 1st Infantry Division.



B.T. COLLINS, *Member*

B.T. is Vice President of Public Finance for Kidder, Peabody & Company in Sacramento. He previously served as Executive Secretary and Chief of Staff to Governor Edmund G. Brown, Jr. and as Director of the California Conservation Corps. Joining the U.S. Army in 1963, B.T. served as an officer in Vietnam (1965, 1967). He lost an arm and a leg in combat and retired as a Captain in 1968. He is the recipient of the Bronze Star with V Device (Valor) with three Oak Leaf Clusters, and the Purple Heart.



DON A. DRUMHELLER, Member

Don is as an Educational Representative of the California Department of Veterans Affairs. He was a National Executive Committeeman and past Department Commander for the American Legion. As a 24-year veteran of the U.S. Air Force, Don saw combat duty as a flight engineer in both the Korean and Vietnam Wars. He was awarded the Air Medal in Korea and later Oak Leaf Clusters for his 106 combat missions in Vietnam. He chairs the Construction Committee for the Memorial.



JESSE G. UGALDE, Member

Jesse is Director of the California Department of Veterans Affairs. Since completing a 32-year active career as a Colonel in the U.S. Army, he has held several executive positions in the private sector in the U.S. and South America. Promoted by George Patton in World War II, Jesse went on to serve in Korea and Vietnam. He was one of America's original Green Berets. Jesse has been awarded the Silver Star Medal with one Oak Leaf Cluster, the Legion of Merit, the Bronze Star, the Purple Heart and CIB.



ASSEMBLYMAN RICHARD E. FLOYD, Non-voting Member

A full-time legislator, Assemblyman Floyd (D-Lawndale) was elected to his present office of Assemblyman in 1980. He is the former Chair of the Assembly Committee on Veterans Affairs. He has been a strong advocate of veteran's rights and authored both AB 650 and AB 287. He is a decorated veteran of the Korean War.



SENATOR JIM ELLIS, Non-voting Member

Senator Ellis (R-San Diego) was elected to the State Senate in 1980. Prior to this, he served four years as State Assemblyman from the 39th district. He was instrumental in gathering Senate support for AB 650 and AB 287, bills that established the California Vietnam Veterans Memorial Commission. Senator Ellis is a retired U.S. Navy Commander (1970) who served in Vietnam as a carrier pilot. He received two Distinguished Flying Crosses, the Bronze Star, and other honors.



JERRI L. EWEN, Executive Director

Jerri is the only full-time staff person for the Commission. For the past three years she has overseen project administration, media relations, fundraising, construction coordination, volunteer activities, and finance. Her prior experience includes work with a California Assemblyman, a California Congressman, and the U.S. Embassy in La Paz, Bolivia. She holds a degree in Public Administration from the University of San Francisco.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

MICHAEL L. LARSON

Designer

Michael is a resident of San Francisco, and served in Vietnam at Chu Lai with the United States Marine Corps from 1965-1966. He has been awarded a Masters Degree in Architecture from Harvard University and a Diploma in Architecture from Cambridge University, England. He has lectured at the University of California at Berkeley, and is currently self-employed.

THOMAS CHYTROWSKI

Designer

A recipient of the Eisner Prize in Architecture while at the University of California, Berkeley, Thomas holds a Masters Degree in Architecture from Harvard University. He also received a Bachelors Degree from U.C. Berkeley. He has held several architectural positions in private industry, and is currently self-employed and lives in New York City.



KELVIN H. HUNTER, Jr.

Dedication Coordinator

A retired colonel, he is a graduate of the Command and General Staff College and the National War College. In Vietnam, he fought in the 25th Infantry Division, where he was the Division Artillery Operations Officer and Commander of the 3rd Battalion, 13th Field Artillery. Colonel Hunter has been awarded the Defense Meritorious Service Medal, the Legion of Merit with Oak Leaf Cluster, the Air Medal (four awards) and the Purple Heart. He currently lives in Fairfax, VA., where he is President of Pro-America, Inc.

USA ★ PFC
 oner, **C**arl E.
 Paul **V**, 21,
 echt, **V**on M
 nton, **M**ichael

CALIFORNIA
 VIETNAM
 VETERANS
 MEMORIAL

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

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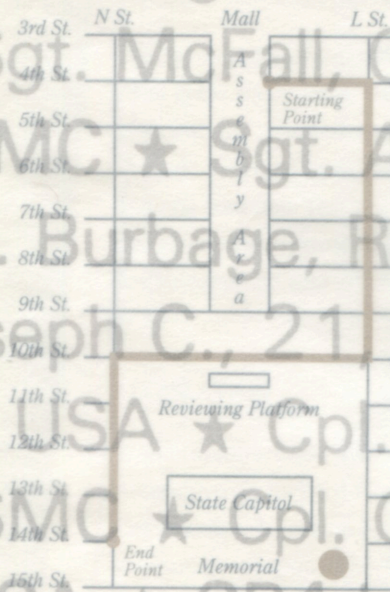
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Carlos R., 18, USMC ★ PFC Duroy, Allen J., 22,
 2, USA ★ Sgt. Swaim, Allan G., 21, USA ★ TWA
 nson, Dennis C., 19, USMC ★ UKIAH ★ SFC Ar
 ★ PFC Dunsting, Dennis P., 25, USA ★ AFCM F
 ★ SP4 Wesolowski, Jeffrey S., 20, USA ★ UNIC
 hael P., 20, USA ★ PFC Mendoza, Peter A., 23,
 SA ★ Cpl. Storm, Ralph D., 27, USMC ★ PFC Y
 4, USA ★ PFC Carl, Arthur J., 20, USA ★ SP4 D
 Sgt. Lara, Apimenio, 23, USA ★ Cpl. Rogone, Joh
 E ★ HN Hill, Paul W., 21, USN ★ VACAVILLE ★
 ★ PFC Gardner, Jack E., 21, USA ★ Capt. Land
 t. Parker, William M., 36, USAF ★ VALINDA ★
 ★ LCpl. Galabiz, John R., 19, USMC ★ VALLEJO
 24, USA ★ Sgt. Bartlett, John R., 21, USA ★ SS
 0, USA ★ SN Carli, David A., 21, USN ★ Cpl. Cla
 Enderiz, Victor A., 20, USA ★ LCpl. Fromme, Fr
 Garton, Tommy R., 20, USA ★ SP4 Gee, Grego
 Terry A., 20, USA ★ SP4 Harris, Michael L., 20
 0, USMC ★ PFC Lee, Loren V., 20, USA ★ SSgt
 Moreno, John B., 21, USMC ★ CWO Paulk, Rob
 s, Ernest E., 21, USA ★ SSgt. Sutton, Dennis L.,
 rles F., 31, USMC ★ VAN NUYS ★ CWO Babya
 Brown, Tanner M. Jr., 20, USA ★ Maj. Cunningh

*Names that once were arced
 Back to the Golden State,
 Radiate now from this
 Shining Circle of Honor.*

*Young lives fractured while
 The Dream was forming and
 Hope altered thru the
 Canopy of emotions
 Riching memory's fine line.*

*Trace the letters and the rank,
 These were youth's brave array and
 A difficult duty was their call,
 Let us bind their sacrifice,
 Their lives; their deaths,
 Are beacons for us all.*

John Middlesworth
 Vietnam Veteran

- 5 -

It was really funny Son, and you father and I thought of you immediately. We wish you could have been there, I know you would have laughed yourself silly! I do miss hearing you laugh.

Well, I'll close now, we're due at your Grandmother's for supper. I just didn't want to let another day pass without sending our love. The President says you all might be home for Christmas - that would be the best present of all! Regardless, you will be home for your 20th birthday and your father's already planning a bar.b.que!

We love you very much Son. Please take care of yourself and don't be a hew. We don't need a Medal of Honor, we need a son.

All our love,

Mom & Dad



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John Middlesworth
Vietnam Veteran



USA ★ PFC
Donner, **C**arl E.
Paul **V.**, 21,
echt, **V**on M
nton, **M**ichael





Vietnam War Memorial
Capitol Park - Sacramento






CALIFORNIA VIETNAM VETERANS MEMORIAL
SIX OF THE TWENTY-TWO PANELS



CALIFORNIA VIETNAM VETERANS MEMORIAL

1 OF 5 MAIN INTERIOR BRONZE SCULPTURES



Dedication

The people of the State of California
dedicate this Monument to the memory
of those Californians who died, or remain
missing, in the

Vietnam War
1959-1975

and in doing so, Honor all the men
and women who served during that war.

*All Gave Some.
Some Gave All.*

The names of all contributors to the California Vietnam Veterans Memorial are enclosed
within this treasury.

CALIFORNIA VIETNAM VETERANS MEMORIAL DEDICATION MONUMENT

[Home](#) : California Vietnam Veterans Memorial Search

California Vietnam Veterans Memorial Search



County	City Name	Rank	Last Name	First Name	Age	Panel*
Solano	Vacaville	PFC	Gardner	Jack Elroy	21	21

* The outer surfaces of the Memorial's inner walls are faced with 22 panels of granite engraved with the names of those Californians killed and missing in action during the Vietnam Conflict, listed alphabetically by home city. For this table, the panels are numbered 1-22, beginning with the panel to the right of the Memorial's entrance and going counterclockwise.